

# UPC EARTH CARE RESOURCES 2025

## NATIVE PLANTS

### **San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT-SA),**

<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/san-antonio/>

Monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Urban Ecology Center at Phil Hardberger Park or by Zoom.

Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)- series of classes

Volunteer opportunities

Great resources on native plants

### **Suggested Books on Native Plants**

**Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region, second edition** by Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski, Lone Star Books, 1997.

**Requiem for a Lawnmower and Other Essays on Easy Gardening with Native Plants** by Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski, Taylor Publishing Company, 1992.

**Bringing Nature Home: how You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants** by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2007.

**Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard** by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2020.

### **Sources of Native Plants:**

**Pollinatives:** <https://www.pollinatives.com/> 101 South St, Converse, TX 78109, (210)233-9922.

**Nectar Bar:** 14732 Bulverde Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247, (210)844-2381.

**Medina Garden Nursery:** 13417 TX-16, Medina, TX 78055, (844)325-1734.

**Natives of Texas:** <https://www.nativesoftexas.com/> 4256 Medina Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028, (830)896-2169.

**Native American Seed Company:** [www.seedsource.com](http://www.seedsource.com) Farm in Junction, TX on the Llano River, offers native plant seeds for our area. Catalog available online. (800)728-4043.

**Rainbow Gardens:** <https://www.rainbowgardens.biz/> Sells both native and nonnative plants so you should come prepared with the full latin name of the plant you are looking for to make sure you get the right plant. Two locations: 8516 Bandera Rd, San Antonio 78250, (210)680-2394 and 2585 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio, 78232, (210)494-6131.

## WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY

**San Antonio Water System** <https://sawsstg.saws.org/>

Website has useful information on gardening and on their Water Saver Landscape program

**San Antonio River Authority** <https://www.sariverauthority.org/>

Responsible for protecting and managing the rivers and creeks in the San Antonio area. Website has useful information and volunteer opportunities.

**Edwards Aquifer Authority:** <https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/> Responsible for managing and protecting the Edwards Aquifer.

**River Aid San Antonio** - S.A. citizens and businesses dedicated to the stewardship of the San Antonio River Basin. Trash Recovered +347,898 LBS- they are on Facebook and Instagram and are now in charge of Basura Bash, as well as monthly trash clean-ups along San Antonio waterways. <https://basurabash.org/>

## RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

**City of San Antonio Solid Waste Management:**

<https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/SWMD/Recycling-Organics>

**Household Hazardous Waste:** <https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/SWMD/HHW>

**Prescription Medication Disposal:** <https://311.sanantonio.gov/kb/docs/private/graffiti-and-waste-collection/med-drop>

## NATURE APPRECIATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**San Antonio Parks and Recreation:** <https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/Home> A vast number of parks, gardens, natural areas and specialty parks to enjoy. San Antonio Parks and Recreation has a number of volunteer opportunities available.

**Favorite Parks:**

**Phil Hardberger Park:** <https://www.philhardbergerpark.org/> Beautiful 330 acre sustainable natural urban park with entrances off of Northwest Military Dr and Blanco Dr. Highlights include beautiful walking trails, a very large land bridge, a native plant demonstration garden and a variety of activities for children and adults. (Becky Huston)

**Howard W Peak Greenway Trails System:** <https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/Parks-Facilities/Trails/Greenway-Trails> Over 100 miles of developed multi-use and accessible trails open daily from sunrise to sunset.

**Confluence Park:** [Confluence Park – San Antonio River Foundation \(sariverfound.org\)](https://www.sariverfound.org/) small park where the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek come together. There are many native plants including native grasses and butterfly friendly plants and there is a water catchment system and outdoor pavilion as well as an indoor classroom.

## **Favorite Greenway Trails:**

**Lady Bird Johnson Trailhead:** trail includes a boardwalk through a wetland area with amazing wildlife and wild flowers. (Becky Huston)

**Headwaters Sanctuary:** <https://www.headwaters-iw.org/> A nature sanctuary in the heart of San Antonio. Offers quiet trails, educational opportunities and ample volunteer experiences.

**Mission Reach & San Antonio River South:** [Mission Reach \(thesanantonioriverwalk.com\)](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com) Visit the Spanish missions and check out the trails that run along the San Antonio river, sometimes on one side, sometimes both. There are places to put in a kayak, ride bicycles and stroll. Lots of native plantings interspersed with parks and varied scenery.

**Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program:** <https://txmn.org/alamo/> Participants in this program become certified volunteers through Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas A& M Extension to volunteer in a variety of local parks and natural areas. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available.

**Texas Master Gardener Program:** <https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/master-gardener-program/> Educational and volunteer service program available through Texas A&M Agrilife Extension.

## **BIRDING IN SAN ANTONIO**

**Bexar Audubon Society:** <https://bexaraudubon.org/> Local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Offers a variety of educational and volunteer opportunities.

**Mitchell Lake Audubon** <https://mitchelllake.audubon.org/> Urban bird and wildlife refuge on 1200 acres, 20 minutes from downtown San Antonio. Offers birding tours and volunteer opportunities.

**San Antonio Audubon Society:** <https://www.saaudubon.org/> Local birding club offering a variety of birding opportunities.

**Catio Spaces:** <https://catiospaces.com/> Cats kill over 2 billion birds in the US each year. Catio Spaces offers information on providing safe and cat-pleasing outdoor enclosures to keep cats and birds safe.

## **COMPOSTING**

### **City of San Antonio Solid Waste Management Curbside Organics Collection:**

<https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/SWMD/Recycling-Organics/Organics#section-1> Use a green organic cart for food waste, food soiled paper and yard trimmings.

**Compost Queens:** <https://www.compostqueenstx.com/> For a fee, drop off your food scraps or arrange for pick up of your scraps, get compost 6 months later for use in your garden.

**Mission Compost:** <https://www.missioncompost.com/> For a fee, arrange for pick up of your scraps, get compost 6 months later for use in your garden

**Back 2 Earth Compost:** <https://www.back2earthcompost.com/> For a fee, arrange for pick up of your scraps, get compost 6 months later for use in your garden

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**SA Climate Ready:** <https://www.sasustainability.com/home> Plan adopted 10/17/19 to address the challenges of climate change in San Antonio.

**League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area: webinars on Climate Change,** [https://lwvsa.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=571900&module\\_id=505359](https://lwvsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=571900&module_id=505359) Hosted 5 excellent webinars in 2022-2023, can be accessed at this link.

## IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**The Nature Conservancy:** <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/texas/>

**Environmental Defense Fund:** <https://www.edf.org/>

**Green Spaces Alliance:** <https://greensatx.org/>

**Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas (FSANA):** <https://fosana.org/about/>

**Alamo Sierra Club:** <https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/alamo>

**Keep San Antonio Beautiful :** <https://www.keepsabeautiful.org/> The local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The mission is to empower San Antonio to take responsibility for improving our communities' environment – they organize regular cleanups and help find sponsors to clean up areas along roadways among other activities.

## RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

**Common Sense Climate Change Resources for Students and Teachers:**

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/lists/climate-change-resources-for-students-and-teachers>

**US Environmental Protection Agency Climate Change Resources for Educators and Students:**

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-resources-educators-and-students>

**NASA Global Climate Change Resources for Educators:** <https://climate.nasa.gov/for-educators/>

**Children and Nature Network:** <https://www.childrenandnature.org/>

## FAVORITE VEGETARIAN COOKBOOKS

**Quick Vegetarian Pleasures** by Jeanne Lemlin. Recipes are easy and great. Favorites: Mexican Vegetable Stew, Mushroom Soup with Herbs, Pumpkin Bread with Streusel Topping (Becky Huston)

**The Gourmet Vegetarian Slow Cooker** by Lynn Alley. Really good slow cooker recipes. Favorites: Mexican Black Bean Soup, Stacked Cauliflower Enchilada with Green Chile Sauce, Potatoes and Peas in Red Curry Sauce (Becky Huston)

**Veganomicon: The Ultimate Vegan Cookbook, 10<sup>th</sup> ed** by Isa Chandra Moskowitz and Terry Hope Romero. Huge number of good recipes for every occasion. Favorites: Hummus, Black Bean Burgers, Chick Pea and Cauliflower Curry (Becky Huston)

**Love real Food** by Kathryne Taylor. Thought provoking cookbook that encourages a new way to look at cooking focusing on avoiding processed foods. Favorites: Granola, Mango Lassi Smoothie Bowl with Toasted Coconut Muesli, Spinach-Artichoke Quiche (Becky Huston)

**The Blue Zones American Kitchen – 100 Recipes to Live to 100** by Dan Buettner with photographs by David McClain. Sections on Indigenous, Native and Early American, African American, Latin American & Regional and Contemporary American. Favorites: Baked Acorn Squash with Berries, Succotash, Zucchini Pupusas, Various Soups (Sandy Nicholson)

**Vegan Soul Kitchen** by Bryant Terry. Fresh, healthy and creative African-American cuisine. Favorites: Cumin-Cayenne Mashed Potatoes, Crispy Green Beans with Roasted Shallots and Walnuts, Jamaican Veggie Patties (Sandy Nicholson)

**Veggie Haven: Easy Japanese Cooking** by Kentaro Kobayashi. Kentaro showcases a wide range of vegetables & some seafood with lots of tempting pictures. Favorites: Ginger Eggplant, Shitake & Red Miso Stir-Fry, Eggplant & Coconut Milk Curry (Sandy Nicholson)